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OUTGOING
MESSAGE

SUBJECT: HERewith SUPPORT CABLE FOR EAST ASIA BRIEF OCPAS EAB 91-278
FOR 27 NOVEMBER 1991

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1. NORTH KOREA: RESPONDING TO PRESSURE NUCLEAR PROGRAM

NORTH KOREA IS ADJUSTING TACTICS TO REDUCE INTERNATIONAL
PRESSURE AGAINST ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAM WHILE STEPPING UP EFFORTS TO

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAY 2004

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[REDACTED]
PROTECT ITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES FROM ATTACK. [REDACTED]

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED A STATEMENT ON MONDAY DECLARING P'YONGYANG WOULD SIGN AN IAEA SAFEGUARDS ACCORD ONCE THE US BEGINS REMOVING ITS NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM SOUTH KOREA. IT REPEATED ITS DEMAND, HOWEVER, THAT INSPECTIONS OF NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR SITES MUST BE LINKED TO SIMULTANEOUS INSPECTIONS IN THE SOUTH. [REDACTED]

MEANWHILE, CONCERNED OVER A POSSIBLE ATTACK ON ITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES OR INTERNATIONALLY FORCED INSPECTIONS, NORTH KOREA HAS TAKEN GREATER DEFENSIVE MEASURES. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

P'YONGYANG HAS SUPPLEMENTED THESE STEPS WITH TOUGH TALK ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF A MILITARY STRIKE AGAINST YONGBYON. A SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIAL TOLD A US VISITOR EARLIER THIS MONTH THAT AN ATTACK WOULD TRIGGER A SECOND KOREAN WAR. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PARTY OFFICIALS ARE TELLING THE POPULACE THEY WOULD RESPOND TO AN ATTACK BY USING MISSILES AGAINST SEOUL AND OTHER SOUTH KOREAN CITIES. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: NORTH KOREA'S STATEMENT ON SIGNING THE SAFEGUARDS ACCORD ALMOST CERTAINLY IS DESIGNED TO RELIEVE THE GROWING INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE AGAINST ITS NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM. P'YONGYANG PROBABLY CALCULATES ITS INSISTENCE ON SIMULTANEOUS NUCLEAR INSPECTIONS WILL BE UNACCEPTABLE TO WASHINGTON AND SEOUL AND ALLOW IT TO STALL ON IMPLEMENTING THE ACCORD. INTENSIFIED EFFORTS TO CONCEAL AND DEFEND ITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES SUGGEST THE NORTH HAS NO INTENTION OF TERMINATING ITS NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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